

## SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

**BIG IDEA:** God gave us His Word. We should read it.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Jeremiah 36    II Timothy 3    Psalm 119    Luke 21:33

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Jeremiah 36:1-8 and II Timothy 3:16-17**

What is at least one way that God communicated His message to His people?

How does God's communication in Jeremiah 36 relate to II Timothy 3:16,17?

What do these passages tell us about what early Christians believed about the Bible?

Check out these two websites to provide you with some background on the reliability of the Bible:

- <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/the-study-of-god/how-do-we-know-the-bible-is-true/how-do-we-know-bible-is-true>
- <http://www.biblica.com/bible/bible-faqs/what-are-the-dead-sea-scrolls/>

How does the existence of the Dead Sea Scrolls affect your confidence that the Bible is the word of God?

**Read Psalm 119:105-112**

What portion of the Bible is the writer of the psalm referring to with the words "your word"?

Why is the Bible important?

What does the Bible tell us about God?

What does the Bible tell us about ourselves?

### PRAYER FOCUS:

Praise God for His desire to communicate.

Confess your unwillingness to listen.

Thank God for the availability of the Bible.

Pray for the work of Bible translators.

Ask God for a greater desire to read the Bible.

### ACTION:

Daily read through Psalm 119 until you find a scripture that is meaningful to you. Copy that scripture and put it in a place where you will see and read it several times throughout your day.

Courtesy of [www.mygrandmatime.com](http://www.mygrandmatime.com)

You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

## FAMILY RESOURCES

**BIG IDEA:** God gave us His Word. We should read it.

Make a list (or talk about or draw a picture) of what you have already done today.

How do you know it is a good, reliable list?

**READ Psalm 119:9**

Make a list (or talk about or draw a picture) of what you did last Wednesday.

How do you know it is a good, reliable list?

**READ Psalm 119:45**

Make a list (or talk about or draw a picture) of things you did as a baby.

How do you know it is a good, reliable list?

**READ Psalm 119:73**

Make a list (or talk about or draw a picture) of things your parents did before you were born.

How do you know it is a good, reliable list?

**READ Psalm 119:133**

Make a list (or talk about or draw a picture) of things that your grandparents did before you were born.

How do you know it is a good, reliable list?

**READ Psalm 119:89-90**

Make a list (or talk about or draw a picture) of things that Jesus did .

How do you know it is a good, reliable list?

**READ Psalm 119:105**

Look up the word "WITNESS" in the dictionary.

### MEMORY VERSE:

"Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will never pass away."

Luke 21:33

Courtesy of [www.mygrandmatime.com](http://www.mygrandmatime.com)

You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	7	10	21	6	17	1	20	5	12	8	9	4	16	18	19	3	24	26	2	22	11	13	23	15	14

"      20 6 25 11 6 16      25 16 21      6 25 24 2 20      13 5 9 9

19 25 26 26      25 13 25 15      7 22 2      4 15      13 18 24 21 26

13 5 9 9      16 6 11 6 24      19 25 26 26      25 13 25 15      "

2 1 : 3 3  
9 22 8 6

[www.KidZone.ws](http://www.KidZone.ws)  
Cryptogram

# BIBLE SCRAMBLE

Find the names of the books of the Old Testament.

ZAER	MAIHC
RNSMUEB	
SAHJOU	
YENMEUODOTR	
HUAMN	EKZEILE
PEROBRVS	
REAHEIMJ	
SEODXU	
IRHACEZAH	
BOJ	UHTR
LJEO	APSSLM
IVTULECIS	
TRESHE	
AANSITMNOLET	
FRITS KINS	
UBKAHKAK	
NOGS FO OLOMOSN	
HAEPNIHZA	
OAJNH	AOMS
AGGAIH	
SEONDC MEULAS	
AHSIAI	AESHO
TSSSAILECECE	
AHINEMEH	
RSIFT RHSIEONCCL	
EUGSJD	
SINGEES	
AHBDOIA	
FRSTI AMULSE	
ECONDS GKINS	
ENSCDO CSOCRINLHE	
EDAINL	CMHILAA

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: How did we get the Bible?** - Finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls and/or History and Organization of the Bible

Tell story of how we got our Bible. (People wrote down what they saw and heard from God. Others copied.... You copy God's Word carefully!) Tell story of finding the dead sea scrolls. (Use Cave Search or Toss the rock from the games section as an introduction to this story.) We can be sure we have all the right words with few/no mistakes.

Introduce the books of the Bible by their groups:

**Old Testament:**

5 books of law – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

12 books of history – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

5 books of poetry – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

17 books of prophecy – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**New Testament:**

4 books of Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

1 book of history - Acts

21 books of letters – Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I & II John, Jude

1 book of prophecy - Revelation

**KEY PHRASES:**

God's Word is special because He is REALLY the author of every book.

THINGS/NOUNS: shepherd boy; goats; clay jars; scrolls; leather; libraries; rocks;

ACTIONS: writing; finding; translating; copying;

IDEAS: accidentally finding something;

**BIBLE DRILLS:**

**What word/s are found in all these verses?**

1 Kings 8:26      2 Chronicles 6:17      Psalm 119:9

Psalm 138:2  
John 17:17

Luke 1:38  
Acts 4:29

Luke 5:5

**OBJECT LESSON:**

Give each person a 3x5 card and a pencil. Have them write on their card one sentence that describes one part of how they get to (school; work; church; grocery store; gym; etc.). Collect the cards and read them in order. What kind of a story/description/map do you get? God's story/map was written over a long time by lots of people, and it still makes sense.

Talk about libraries. Do you like to go? How do you behave in a library? What kind of books do you like? What do you have to do to take the books home? How is the Bible like a library? (There's lots of books in it - & poetry, mystery, history, how to, etc.) How is it different? Show a chart of Bible books showing the organized sections of history, poetry, prophecy, etc. for both NT and OT.

**MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS:**

Use Memory verse relays - (Say words aloud as they are placed, word by word, on the floor/table.)

Memory verse puzzles – Set out groups of memory verses that are cut in a unique way (not word by word) and let people put them back together. Be sure the puzzles are read out loud when completed.

**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Luke 21:33**

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

Support and encourage one another in your growth in the Lord! (II Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not

need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”) One way to do that is to join or host a Bible study. Use the materials provided in this lesson series.

Make a chart and stickers to help you reach your goal of memorizing a verse or saying the books of the Bible. Use the chart to “mark off” each time you practice toward your goal.

Go to the library. God’s Word, the Bible, is actually made up of 66 books. That’s a small library, but a very important one!

Make sure every one in the family knows their address and phone #. This is like knowing the chapter and verse of a special part of God’s Word. Both are a place to find things that are important.

### **GAMES:**

**BIBLE BINGO** - With names of Books of NT or OT on the playing cards

**Cave search** - make "caves" out of shoe boxes. Put items in the caves and have people put their hands in the cave to guess their contents. In our story today, a shepherd boy found something very interesting in a cave.

**Toss the rock in the cave** - Use a box (cave) and a bean bag (rock). The shepherd boy was tossing rocks when he discovered the cave and the special things in it.

**Chart of Bible Books** (one for each group) - make chart of Bible books, cutting them into the organized sections of history, poetry, prophecy, etc. for both NT and OT. Take turns putting them in order and being timed. (As sessions progress, cut apart the sets and see who can put them in order.) Challenge everyone to learn or help teach the book order of both OT and NT books.

**Hot Potato** toss/pass ball (or potato) to each other. Each person who catches must say the next book of the Bible, or next word in the memory verse, before tossing/passing the ball on. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

**Duck, Duck, Goose** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, ACTS! ...or any part/section of the books in their order)

**Can you spell it?** Not all of the books are easy to spell! Draw the name of a book and ask someone to write it on a

board. If they get it right, they get to draw the next book to spell.

**Memory Verse Word Puzzles**

**Tic-Tac-Toe** - Let the kids put an X or O on the board if they can tell if a book is in the OT or NT.

### **SONG OPTIONS:**

The BIBLE (learn to play with instruments!)

Psalm 119:105

God’s Holy Book

God’s Word is for Me

The Wisdom of The Lord

What Book?

### **CRAFTS:**

Each person begins on #1 and progresses through the crafts as each is finished.

#1 - **Bible Book Cover** (These need to be designed to go over the Bibles that will be given to each person. Put their new Bible in them for display and for pick up at the end of the sessions or as completed.)

#2 - **Book Ends/stand** (Made of wood bottoms with 4 holes and with bent wire in the holes and shaped to hold their new Bible in either an open or closed position- personally painted/finished wood?)

#3 - **Bible Soap** (God sent Jesus so that we could be clean!)

#4 - **Make "old parchment"** for use as a scroll, writing an appropriate verse on it

#5 - **Make a Bible Book mark**

**OTHER OPTIONS** - Memory verse plaque

### **COMMUNION OPTIONS:**

What did people do before they had easy access to books? They told stories. Even today there are parts of the world where people gather in the evening and sit around telling stories. Much of the time these are true stories about things that have happened in the past or that may have happened that day. Many times, stories are re-

lated to events or places. In Joshua 4:1-9, the people of Israel are instructed to build a pile of stones so that they will remember what God did to bring them into the promised land.

We are fortunate that we have books, especially the Bible. It tells us about all the different ways God has loved us. We read these stories and that is important. God knows that we need to do more than read the stories. Sometimes we need a pile of stones. Our pile of stones today is some bread and some grape juice. The bread reminds us that God became a real person just like us and came to earth to be with us. The grape juice reminds us that this real person was Jesus and that He bled and died on a cross so that we could be forgiven and live with God forever. We read about this story in the Bible, and the bread and juice remind us that the story is true.

#### **OFFERING OPTIONS:**

God's Word is important and your family probably has many copies of God's Word available to read. You can read the Bible on your phone or computer. Many people read their Bible on their phone using the free YouVersion app. Is it really free? It is true that anyone who wants to use it can get a copy without paying anything, but it isn't free. There are some very generous people in a church that pay for everything that is required to make that Bible available to us. I once knew a man who always carried a Bible to give away. How could you give to make the Bible available to more people?

#### **MORE RESOURCES:**

- <https://www.centuryone.com/25dssfacts.html>
- <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/dead-sea-scrolls/introduction-to-the-dead-sea-scrolls/>
- <http://www.biblica.com/bible/bible-faqs/what-are-the-dead-sea-scrolls/>
- The Dead Sea Scrolls: Discovery and Meaning by Hershel Shanks
- The Story: <http://www.thestory.com>